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P.S. on the CIA

The complaint expressed in this column Monday regarding the State Dept.'s imposition of a security classification on the biographical register of civilian personnel overseas is already outdated. Last Friday, on the day the editorial was written, the State Dept. de-classified the register.

NEWS REPORTS apparently aroused sufficient objection that the original reason for the classification—the fear that Central Intelligence Agency personnel could be identified through the register—was judged not strong enough. Particularly effective was the outcry raised by Rep. John E. Moss (D., Calif.), who called the attempted secrecy “incredibly stupid” and threatened to call a public hearing unless the classification were removed.

The fear of open investigation and the watchdog function of the Congress have thus saved from the labyrinth of classified material a valuable reference work, used in libraries and newspaper offices across the country.